(b) Whether it is also a fact that DFID agreed in 2006 that out of above Rs. 1,000 crores, Rs. 700 crores would be given in the form of grant; and

(c) if so, what are the reasons that Government have reduced the project cost to Rs. 700 crores and grant to Rs. 400 crores?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (c) In December 2005, Department of Economic Affairs forwarded the project proposal of Government of Andhra Pradesh on "Enhancing Service Delivery and Quality Health Care Programme" to Department of International Development (DFID) for financial assistance of 100 £ million sterling. In January 2006, DFID informed Department of Economic Affairs that they would support this proposal. DFID has now indicated that they would provide 60 £ million (approx. Rs. 500 crores) for the project over three years.

External bilateral partners decide on the quantum of assistance for the agreed project proposals recommended by Government of India depending on availability of funds provided under their Official Development Assistance (ODA) budget.

Investment by LIC in sick companies

2315. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total quantum of investment made by financial institutions like Life Insurance Corporation by sick companies which have stopped trading in stock exchanges since 2001;

(b) the quantum of funds thus locked, company-wise and shareholding-wise which should have long been unlocked to generate higher returns in the present day capital market;

(c) the steps being taken to liquidate and reinvest the funds immediately to minimize losses;

(d) the details of the companies for which offer proposals for purchase have been received till date since 2001;

(e) if so, the action taken on these proposals; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) has reported that as per the website of National Stock Exchange (NSE), 91 companies have been suspended from trading since 2001. Similar details from the Bombay Stock Exchange website are not available. It has further reported that out of the 91 companies suspended by NSE since 2001, LIC has exposure in 10 companies with an investment of about Rs. 38 crore book value. Further, LIC has exposure of about Rs. 304 crore (book value) in another 448 companies which are not being traded on the exchange as on date.

(c) LIC has reported that as and when it receives offers to buy its holding, either in part or whole, in such companies, the proposals are processed based on the acquisition cost, net asset value of the share and the future prospects of the company. Appropriate decision in this regard is taken by LIC on the advice of its Investment Committee.

(d) to (f) LIC has reported that it received proposal for about 121 companies of which LIC sold equity holding in about 87 companies. In another 5 cases, the price was not found acceptable and in respect of the remaining proposals, the final decision is yet to be taken.

Recovery of tax by banking cash transaction tax

2316. SHRIMATI SYEDA ANWARA TAIMUR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that by the Banking Cash Transaction Tax (BCTT), introduced by the Income Tax Department, has recently found undeclared cash transactions worth over Rs. 1,500 crore in a Nationalized Bank alone operated by seven account holders;

(b) if so, what Government have taken to recover the tax evaded by them; and

(c) what are the major achievements by the BCTT since its inception, State-wise, details and tax recovered with the help of the BCTT?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) On the basis of the monthly statements filed under the Banking Cash Transaction Tax (BCTT), enquiries have been carried out in several cases, including in respect of